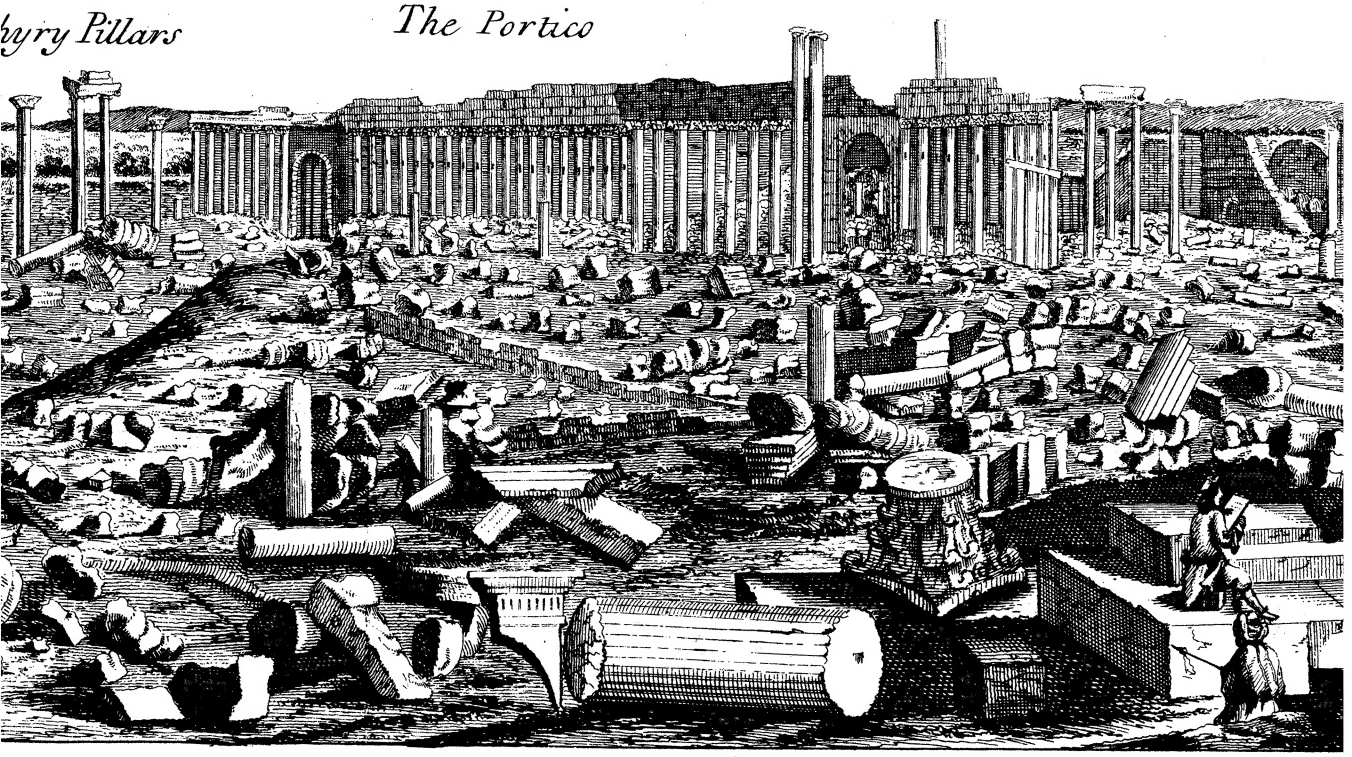
A View of the C

The Temple now inhabited.

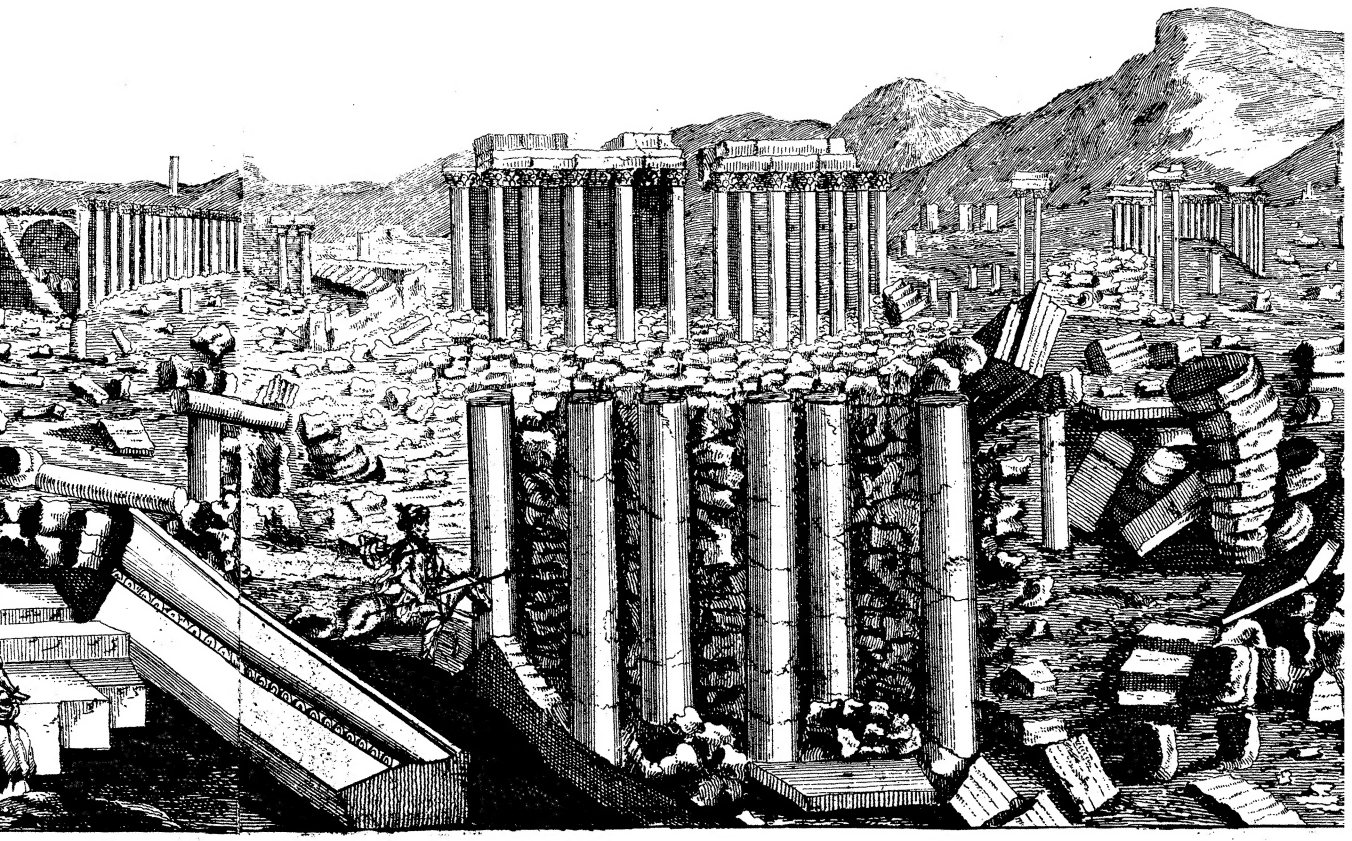
Ruines of Palmyra at

hyry Pillars

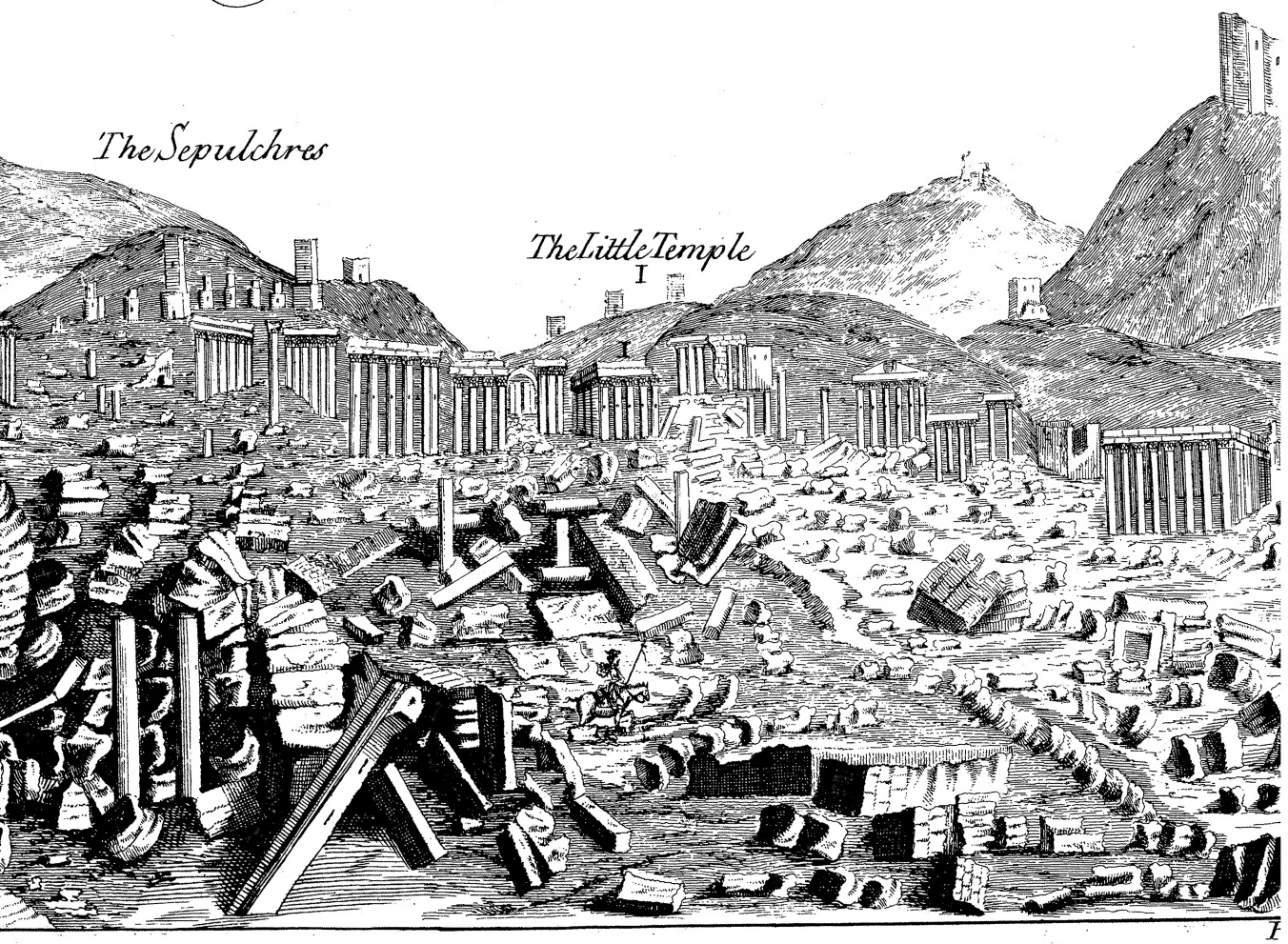
The Portico



alias Tadmor, taken on t



the Southern Side.



Philosoph. Transact. N°. 218.

II. *An Extract of the Journals of two ſeveral Voyages of the* Engliſh Merchants *of the* Factory *of* Aleppo, *to* Tadmor, *anciently call'd* Palmyra.

OUR Merchants of this worthy Factory, being generally Men of more than ordinary Birth and Education, have not been wanting (as the intervals of leiſure from their gainful Traffick would permit) to make Voyages of Curioſity, to viſit the celebrated Remains of Antiquity in thoſe Parts, whereby the once flouriſhing State of the *World*, under the *Roman Empire*, is abundantly evinced. And being inform'd by the Natives, that the Ruins of the City of *Tadmor* were more conſiderable than any they had yet ſeen, they were tempted to enterprize this hazardous and painful Voyage over the *Deſart*; but having been, by the perfidy of the *Arabs*, diſappointed of their Deſires in their firſt Attempt, they were obliged to defer their Curioſity, till they could better provide for their Security: whereof being aſſured, from the confidence ſome of them had in the Friendſhip of *Aſſyne* then King of the *Arabs*, they adventured again, in the Year 1691, and had full liberty to viſit, obſerve and tranſcribe what they pleaſed.

What Account they there took, the Publick has already ſeen in Our Laſt, *Numb.* 217; ſince which, by the Favour of Mr. *Timothy Lanoy*, and Mr. *Aaron Goodyear*, two very Eminent Merchants, who were both in the firſt Voyage, we have receiv'd not only the Draught of the Proſpect of thoſe noble Ruins, taken upon the Place, (of which we here give a Copy,) but alſo the *Journals* of both the Voyages; which, for the Satisfaction of the Curious, we have thought fit to publiſh.

The First Voyage, Anno 1678.

July 18, at Five in the Morning, we ſet out from *Aleppo*, being ſixteen Engliſh; but with Servants and Mulettiers in all forty; and in four hours and an half, travelling South by Eaſt, we arrived at a Village call'd *Caſſerabite*, being at the edge of the Deſart, here we repoſed the reſt of that day.

July 19th, we roſe at One in the Morning, and directed our courſe S. S. E. over the Deſart, for a Fountain call'd *Churraick*; but our Guide loſing his Way, there being no Path, 'twas near Noon before we found it: which made us doubt of our Safety. This Well has no Signs near it to diſcover it by. Here we pitcht our Tents, and refreſht our ſelves and Horſes; and the Water being of a Purgative Quality, made us ſome Diverſion. In our way, we found two *Arabs* with two Aſſes, one whereof carry'd Water and a little Bread, the other they rode on by turns; they had one Gun, with which they ſhot Gazels, the Bullet being a hard Stone broken round, and caſed with Lead; they had on the Palms of their Hands, Elbows, Knees and Feet, ſome Gazel-skin tied, that they may be able to creep the better on the Ground, to ſhoot; one of the Aſſes walking by as a Stalking-horſe, and the *Arab* imitating the cry of the Gazel till he get within ſhot: Theſe *Arabs* are called *Selebee*. At the Well came to us ſome *Arabs* that were making Aſhes of the ordinary ſort of Weeds call'd *Chuddraiſe*, *Ruggot* and *Cuttaff*; theſe they cut and dry, and putting them into a Pit, ſet fire to them, and the Aſhes cake at the bottom. The Aſhes they carry to *Eglib* and *Tripoli*, to make Soap of: But the beſt ſort of Aſhes are made of the Weed *Shinon*, which grows about *Tadmor*, *Soukny*, *Tibe*, and *Tarecca*; it grows like Broom in *England*, and in ſhape reſembles Coral.

July

July 20, we roſe at four in the morning, and travelling two hours E. S. E. we arrived at *Andrene*, where we found the Ruins of two or three Churches, and of a great Town lying in a large Plain; where having tarried about an hour and an half, and taken ſome fragments of Greek Inſcriptions, which afforded no certain ſence, but yet were evidently Chriſtian, we march'd again S. by E. and in about four hours time came to a pleaſant Aqueduct call'd *Sheck-alal*; this Aqueduct is cut through the main Rock, for a great way from the Mountains; and where it ends, the *Arabs* have made a Garden, which afforded us Melons, Cucumbers, Purſlain, *&c.* In a Grott hard by, there dwelt an *Arab* with his Family; he had a dozen *Buffalo's*, which they uſed both for their Milk, and to plow the Ground, ſowing both Wheat and Barley: hither the *Arabs* reſort, when they have committed any Robbery about *Aleppo*, or *Hama*, and here they repoſe, and divide the Spoil.

July 21, we roſe at four in the morning, and riding two hours South, we came to a Ruine call'd *Briadeen*; here we found the following Inſcription on a Stone, good part in the Ground:

ΑΦΙΕΡΩΘΗ ΑΑΙΛΥΝΔΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ Α Μ Φ ЄΤΟΥϹ
ΔΙΑ ΜΑΤЄΡΝΟΥ ΚΑ(Ι ΙΙ)ΑΠΠΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΜΑΙΚΟΥ ΚΝЄΤΜΝ
——— Υ ——— Ν

From hence going South-Eaſt, in four hours more we came to a Well called *Coſtal* (which ſignifies a *Spring in Arab.*) Moſt part of our way through the Deſart we were troubled with *Rat-holes* in great numbers, like Coney-boroughs, which by the ſinking in of the Earth, very much incommoded our Horſes and Mules. Theſe *Rats* have at the ends of their Tails a buſh of Hair, and the *Arabs* eat them all, excepting one part. From this Well we aroſe about four in the Afternoon, and began to

aſcend ſmall Hills, covered with Trees, which, for the moſt part, were the ſmall *Piſtacho's* which the *Arabs* pickle with Salt ; but eaten green, are good to quench thirſt. We travelled on three hours up the Hills, where we pitcht that night, having no other Water but what we carry'd with us ; and at Night we had a ſmall ſhower of Rain, a thing unuſual in that Country at that time of the year.

July 22, We roſe by Two in the Morning, and travelling E. S. E. we came by Eleven to a Well call'd *G'hor*, where we found it very hot, and ſaw ſeveral prints of Horſes Feet, ſo that we ſuſpected ſome *Arabs* had newly paſt that way.

July 23, We roſe by One in the Morning, and travelling moſt Eaſt, we came to a large Plain, where we ſaw before us, on a high Mountain, a great Caſtle, call'd by the Arabs *Anture*. When we had travelled two or three hours in this Plain, we eſpied an *Arab* driving towards us a Camel, with his Launce, ſo faſt, that he came on a round gallop, and we ſuppoſed him ſent as a Spy : being come up to us, he told us he was of *Tadmor*, and that his Prince, the *Emir Melkam*, had that day made Friendſhip with *Hamet Shideed* another Prince, and that together they had four hundred Men ; ſo he kept us company an hour or two, and enquired of our *Muletters* if we were not *Turks* diſguiſed, with intent to ſeize on *Melkam* ; for we travelled with a *Bandiero*, the Impreſs being a *Hanjarr* or Turkiſh Dagger, and a Half-Moon. We told him we were *Franks*, which he could hardly believe, wondering that we travelled thus in the Deſart, only out of Curioſity. Being come near to *Tadmor*, he went a little before us, and on a ſudden run full ſpeed towards the Ruines, we not endeavouring to hinder him. Our Guide told us he was gone to acquaint the *Arabs* who we were, and that we ought to ſuſpect and prepare for the worſt ; ſo we diſmounted twenty of our Servants,

Servants, each having a long Gun, and Piſtols at his Girdle, and placed them abreaſt before us: we following at a little diſtance behind, on Horſe-back, with Carbines and Piſtols. In this order we proceeded, and came to a moſt ſtately *Aqueduct* which runs under Ground in a direct paſſage five Miles, and is covered with an Arch of Baſtard Marble all the way, and a path on both ſides the Channel for two Perſons to walk abreaſt; the Channel it ſelf being about an *Engliſh* Yard in breadth, and ¾ of a Yard in depth. At 20 Yards diſtance all the way are Ventiducts for the Air to paſs, and the holes are ſurrounded with ſmall mounts of Earth to keep the Sand and Duſt from falling down. We Marched cloſe by theſe Mounts, which might ſerve us for defence, expecting every moment that the *Arabs* would come to Aſſail us, having the diſadvantage of Sun and Wind in our Faces: wherefore we Travelled hard to gain an Eminence where we might poſt our ſelves advantagiouſly, and ſtop and repoſe a little, to conſider what we had to do. The *Arabs* finding us to come on with this order and reſolution, thought not fit to adventure on us, ſo we gained the Hill, from whence we might diſcern theſe vaſt and noble Ruins, having a plain like a Sea for greatneſs to the Southwards of it. Here having refreſht our Men, we fetch'd a little Compaſs and deſcended by the Foot of a Mountain, on which ſtands a great Caſtle, but uninhabited. Here two *Arabs* came to us with Lances, one being Chiah to *Melkam*, and we ſent two to meet them; they gave the *Salam alika* and ours returned the *Alica ſalam*, and advancing to our Company, told us the *Emir* had underſtood of our coming, and had ſent them to acquaint us that he was our Friend, and that all the Country was ours. We ſent back with them our Janizary and a Servant to viſit the Prince in his Tents, which were in a Garden. In the mean time

we diſmounted at a watering place amidſt the Ruins, but did not unload till our Janizary and Servant returned with the *Emir's Teſcarr*, aſſuring us of Friendſhip and Protection, a Writing which, the *Arabs* were never known to violate before. With them came alſo one that belonged to the *Sheck* of the Town, for whom we had letters from *Uſeffe Aga* the *Emeen* of *Aleppo*. He deſired us for greater ſecurity to pitch our Tents under the Town Walls, which is in the Ruins of a great Palace, the Wall yet ſtanding very high, the Town within but ſmall, and the Houſes excepting two or three no better than Hog-ſtyes. So we pitched in a deep Sandy Ground where we found it exceeding hot. Here we waited till three of the Clock without eating any thing, expecting the *Sheck* ſhould have preſented us according to the uſual Cuſtom of the *Turks* to their Friends, and have given ſome anſwer to the Letters we brought him; but on the contrary we found by the geſture of the People, that we had Reaſon to ſuſpect them. Hereupon two of our Company, believing that the want of a Preſent to the Emir was the cauſe thereof, reſolved to adventure to give him a Viſit, and taking the Janizary and one Servant, they carried Him a Preſent of two pieces of Red Cloath, and four of Green, and ſeveral other things: Being come, he welcomed them into his Tent, and placed the one on his right hand and the other on his left. *Melkam* was a young Man, not above Five and Twenty, and well Featur'd and a moſt Excellent Horſe-man; *Hamett Shideed*, the other Prince, was more elderly, as about Forty years of Age, and was not in the Tent, but ſate under a *Palm-tree* near it. He treated them with *Coffee*, *Camels-fleſh* and *Dates*, and enquired of their Journey, and the Cauſe of their Coming: They told him 'twas only curioſity to ſee thoſe Ruins; he ſaid that formerly *Solomon Ibn el Dood* Built a City in that place, which being deſtroyed,

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was Built again by a ſtrange People, and he believed that we underſtanding the writing on the Pillars, came to ſeek after Treaſure, he having but ſix Moons before found a Pot of *Corra Cruſſes*. After this he went out of the Tent, leaving them ſmoaking Tobacco, to the Janizary and Servant, and told them, that never till that day any *Franks* had been at that place, and that now we knew the way through the Deſert, we might inform the *Turks* to their Ruin and Deſtruction, ſo that 'twould be convenient for them to deſtroy us all: but that we coming as Friends, he would only have 4000 Dollars as a Preſent, elſe he would hang them and the two *Franks* up, and go fight the reſt. This meſſage being brought them, they wiſht they had excuſed themſelves from this Embaſſy, and anſwered, they could ſay nothing to that Demand, not knowing our Minds, but if he would permit them to go and ſpeak with the reſt, they would return an anſwer. Hearing this, he threatned preſent Death, but at length gave leave to our Janizary to carry us a Letter from them, wherein they ſhewed the danger they were in, and earneſtly entreated us to redeem them, the price ſet on them being 2000 Dollars, one half in Money, the other half in Goods, as Swords, Cloaths, Tents, *&c.* which the *Emir* promiſed to eſtimate at their worth.

This Letter amazed us mightily, and a little before it arrived, we underſtanding a little, and fearing more ill treatment to our Friends, were getting ready to free them or dye with them. The Garden where *Melkam* lay, was about half a Mile from the Tents, full of *Palm Trees*, and had no Walls, but looſe Stones piled up breaſt high about them, ſo we deſigned to have gone ſuddenly and given two or three Volleys on them, e're they could get to Horſe; and the *Arab* knows not how to Fight on Foot. And though they bragg'd they had 400 Men, we ſuppoſed 200 might be the moſt, and they

not

not all Lances. But on Receipt of this Letter, and the Servants telling us, that they would certainly be cut off, if we endeavoured their Reſcue, we begun to examin what Moneys we had, Cloaths and other Trade, and found we could not near make up that Summ. In this Confuſion came two *Arabs* to receive the things, and immediately word was brought that the *Emir* would come and Viſit us; we ſent him word, that if he came with more than two followers, we would not admit him: ſo he came with two Servants only; and in concluſion, we made him up in Money and Goods to the Value of 1500 Dollars. He valuing our Things as we pleaſed; his Deſign being not ſo much to compleat the Summ, as to take from us all we had. After this, about Sun Set, he returned us our two Friends, when the *Sheck* of the Town invited us to Lodge within the Town; which we found afterwards was with a deſign to have forced ſomething from us: but we giving him to underſtand that the Emir had taken all already, and had left us only our Arms and the Cloathes on our Backs; which if they would have, they muſt Fight for: that Reſolution daunted them, and away they went, promiſing us Barley for our Horſes in the Morning. We kept good watch in the Night, and when Day broke, we began to conſider how to clear our ſelves; we expected the Barley till Nine in the Morning, when it came, and the Emir himſelf came and gave us the good Morrow: We feared leaſt they ſhould pretend to ſtop ſome of us in the Gate-way, ſo we placed ſix of our Company to ſecure the Paſſage, till all the reſt were got out, under pretence of taking an Inſcription that was over the Gate. Being all got clear, we returned by the ſame way we came and arrived at *Aleppo July* 29, in the Morning. This *Melkam* told us, that if we had not ſubmitted our ſelves to his Demands, he was reſolved to Fight us, after this Method: Loading

50 Camels with Baggs of Sand, and making ſmall holes in the Baggs for the Sand to drop out, he would drive theſe Camels abreaſt upon us before the Wind, that the Sand might blow in our Eyes, and we ſpending our Bullets on the Camels, might ſo be eaſily overthrown; we anſwered, that we believed he would not venture his Camels and Horſes to ſuch a Combat. He wondered extreamly when we talked of Shooting Birds flying, and Hares running.

This and other the like Violences uſed by this *Arab* Prince, made the *Baſſa* of *Aleppo* reſolve to deſtroy him; and not long after he cajolled him with the Hopes of being made King of the *Arabs*, and to draw him near the City, he Veſted and Careſſed ſome of his Followers: which having its effect, the *Baſſa* ſurprized him in his Tents by Night, and ſoon after he was put to Death: This thoſe People were willing to believe the effect of their ſo abuſing the *Engliſh*, and might much contribute to the Security and good Uſage they found, that went the ſecond time on this Expedition.

We had not time to view theſe Ruins by reaſon of this uſage, though perhaps we might with ſafety. We only took one of the Inſcriptions as we paſt by (*that of* Pag. 89. *of the laſt Tranſaction*) which was thus.

ЄΠΙΤΡΟΠΟΝ CЄBACTOY ΔOYKHNAPION
KAI AP.. AΠHTHN IOYΛIOC AYPHΛIOC CANWHC
WACCIANOY TOY W..ΛЄNAIOY IΠΠЄYC
POYWAωN TON ΦIΛON KAI ΠPOCTATHN
ЄTOYC H O Φ MHNЄI ΞANΔIKω.

wherein the principal difference is in the word ἀεϱαπήτην which in the account already publiſhed is read ἀεϱάπελην, which ſeems to ſignifie ſome peculiar Officer of the *Syrians*, as *Ducenarius* of the *Latines*, which per-

haps thoſe skill'd in the Oriental Cuſtoms and Languages, may be able to expound.

As far as we could conclude from our Journeys, and the Poſition of the Ways taken by two good Compaſſes, the Diſtance of *Tadmor* from *Aleppo* is about 150 Engliſh Miles, and the Courſe S. S. E. or rather ſomewhat more Southerly, conſidering the Variation of the Compaſs, which is above half a Point Weſtward in theſe Parts.

The Second Voyage, Anno 1691.

We ſet out from *Aleppo* for *Tadmor*, on *Michaelmas-day*, being in all, Maſters and Servants, thirty Men, well armed, having obtained a Promiſe of Security from *Aſſyne* then King of the *Arabs*, and one of his own People for a Guide. This day our Road pointed S. b. E. and in four hours we came to a Fountain call'd *Caphir-Abiad*, leaving Old *Aleppo* about an hour diſtant on the right-hand: here we made but a very ſhort ſtay; but proceeded to a better Fountain at the Foot of a very high Hill, cover'd with looſe Stones, the Ruines of a Village called *Broeder*, of which there was not one Houſe remaining; and dining here, we advanced in an hour and a quarter more, in the Afternoon, through a fertile open place, to a place called *Emghir*, famous for the beſt Wheat that is brought to *Aleppo*. This we made our firſt Stage; and mounting again in the Morning about five a clock, in leſs than an hour, paſt by an uninhabited Village, call'd *Urghee*, our Road pointing as before, through the fruitful Plain, even and pleaſant; but when we came to aſcend the Hills, where I reckon'd we entred the Deſart, and were to take our leave of Mankind, at leaſt of an inhabited Country for ſome days, we had a troubleſom paſſage, over looſe great Stones, without any appearance of a Road.

Our

Our Guide had promiſed to conduct us through pleaſant Groves and Foreſts; but no ſuch thing appeared, unleſs we would beſtow that name upon low withered Shrubs that grew in the Way, only one Tree we ſaw, which was of good uſe to us, ſerving as a Land-mark; and when we were come up with it, being left at a little diſtance on the right-hand, we gain'd the proſpect of a remote ridge of Hills before us, and on the top of one of them an old Caſtle; this Caſtle, we were told, was known by the Name of *Gazar Ibn Wordan*; but what it anciently was, or in what Condition it is at preſent, I could not learn; therefore, not unwillingly, I turned my Eyes from it, to a little round Hill more on the left, by which we were to direct our courſe, and about a quarter of an hour from which ſtood a Sheck's Houſe, call'd *Sheck Ailha*, where we were to bait, with a Well of Water by it, but ſuch that we had but little *guſto* to taſte, though it ſerved our Horſes: All the Country hereabouts is ſtor'd with *Gazels*, and there is a barbarous ſort of People there, that have hardly any thing elſe to live upon, but what of theſe they can kill; and Neceſſity has taught them to be no mean Artiſts in their way, for they lie down behind the Stones, and as the poor harmleſs Creature paſſes, ſhoot them; and though their Guns be very ordinary, exceeding heavy and thick, with Match-Locks, yet are they ſuch excellent Marksmen, that they kill many. That morning we had travelled about five hours to reach *Sheck Ailha's*; yet finding nothing to invite our ſtay there, (though there were four or five Tombs there not ill made, according to the Turkiſh mode,) about one a clock we mounted again, bending to the S. E. or ſomething more Eaſterly. In our way we had two remarkable Proſpects, one on the right-hand, of the Ruines of an ancient City call'd *Andecin*, and ſometimes *Londrine*, which we were told had been formerly inhabited by *Franks*, and that there were

many Inſcriptions there; but it was too far out of our way, and withal ſomething too dangerous to, for us to take a view of them: The other, on the left-hand, was another Tree, not far from which our Guide aſſured us of good Water, where we deſigned to take up our lodging; the hopes of the Water made us ſlight a Well we paſt by on the Road, at which afterwards we repented we had not ſtay'd; for when we came up with the Tree, from which we had declined a great way to the right, we found our Water ſtill at a very great diſtance, and were conſtrained to take new Directions by a white chalky Hill, almoſt as far as we could ſee, and yet not much beyond the place which was to be our Stage; on therefore we proceeded till Sun-ſet, very weary, and almoſt without hope of our coming to Water that night, though at the ſame time near dead with thirſt; and which the more ſurpriz'd us, our Guide was advanced a great way before, out of our ſight, upon what deſign we knew not, but at his return, we found 'twas only to aſſure himſelf better of the way, and in an hour's time more he brought us to the ſide of a Bog, call'd by the Name of *Zerga*, where, ſuch as it was, we found Water enough, but it was neither palatable nor wholſom, neither did the Ground ſeem proper to ſleep upon; yet we were forced to be content, there being no removing thence that night.

October 1. We departed from *Zerga*, about two hours before Sun-riſe, and as ſoon as it was light, had the proſpect of a very high Hill, which was to be the bounds of our travel that day. To this we made as directly as we could look, finding nothing in our way obſervable either to arreſt our curioſity, or to ſlacken our pace, except a multitude of Holes made in the ſandy Earth, by Rats, Serpents, and other Animals, which render'd our riding a little troubleſom; as we had found it upon the ſame account the Afternoon before. About two hours

ſhort

ſhort of our Stage, we were ſhewn three little round Hills lying to the right in a direct line, known by the name of *Tenage*; where we were told there was good Water, and its for that reaſon only they deſerve the notice of thoſe that travel through ſuch a thirſty Deſart. The Place to which we directed our courſe was called *Eſree*, where we arrived about eleven a clock, and found, to our great ſatisfaction, that our Guide had not deceived us in his Promiſe of excellent Water: here we could diſcern the Foundations of a ſpacious City, and a piece of a thick Wall, built of a chalky Stone, was ſtanding: this we judged to be the remainder of a Caſtle ſituated on the ſide of the Hill, ſo as both to defend and command the City. On the top of the Hill, above the Caſtle, ſtands the Ruines of a Fabrick, in appearance very ancient, built of very hard Stone, yet exceedingly worn by the Weather; 'tis of an oblong figure, pointing near to the N. E. and S. W. with only one Door on the Eaſterly end, which was once adorned with extraordinary good Carvings, of which there are ſtill ſome remains, but the greateſt part is either worn away, or purpoſely defaced; and thoſe marks of ancient Beauty that remain are very obſcure, and difficultly diſcernable; the outſide of the Walls is beautified with Pillaſters quite round, with their Pedeſtals and Capitals regular and handſom; but the Roof is all fallen down, and within appears nothing which looks either great or beautiful. The Situation, and placing the Door, hinders one from conjecturing it to have been a Chriſtian Oratory, or Chapel, and therefore in probability it muſt have been a Heathen Temple; and if ſo, then the piece of the Caſtle Wall being of a ſofter Stone, müſt be much more modern; the goodneſs of the Water brings the *Arabs* (who rove up and down the Deſart) and the *Turk-men* frequently hither, which has occaſiond a great many Graves about the Temple; and ſome have had leiſure,

and,

and (which is more difficult to be imagin'd) skill enough to ſcratch in the Walls the firſt Letters of their Names, and many more in Arabick Characters, which we could make nothing of, no more than of an Arabick Inſcription which lay hard by, but appeared not ancient.

October the 2d. We departed from *Eſree*, about an hour or an hour and an half after Midnight, and in ſix hours and an half arrived at two Wells, the water 18 fathom and two foot deep, known by the name of *Imp malcha Giub*: through the greateſt part of this Stage we had a broad beaten Road, and where that was not diſcernible, we guided our ſelves by a ridge of Chalky Hills, under which the Wells lay; the Water we found exceeding bad, and of ſo noiſom a ſcent, that we could not endure it ſo much as at our Noſes; which made our Guide laugh at us, who told us, the *Arabs*, and even the *King* himſelf uſed to drink freely of it; which, I am ſure, our Horſes would not do, though they were under a neceſſity of drinking that or none: For our ſelves, we had brought from *Eſree* Water ſufficient for one day at leaſt. In our way hither we were ſhewn the true Plant which they burn for Soap-Aſhes, which has no Leaves, but a ſoft juicy Stalk ſhooting into ſeveral Branches, and ſomething reſembling our Sanphire, only it's more round than that; the Aſhes likewiſe we ſaw, which were made not far from the Wells, which in burning run into Cakes, not much unlike the Cinders of a Forge, only they are heavier, and not ſo full of pores, nor ſo hard as they are. In the Afternoon, we proceeded on our Voyage two hours and an half, to a place called *Almyrrha*, paſſing rather between than over the Hills, though we had ſomething of an aſcent too; this we did to ſhorten our Stage the next Morning, for we were told before-hand we ſhould find no Water upon thoſe Mountains; ſo, for our Selves, we liv'd

liv'd upon our old ſtock, and our Horſes were conſtrained to paſs that night without Water. Our Journey hitherto had been altogether Southerly, and but little varying to the Eaſtward of due South.

October the 3d. We mounted from *Almyrrha* between five and ſix in the Morning, making to the point of a high ridge of Mountains, through an uneven deſart way, frequently interrupted with Gutts and Channels, probably made by the deſcent of the Waters from the Hills, upon ſudden Rains: we came to the aſcent after about four hours travel, which we found not difficult; and when we were on the top, we had a pleaſant proſpect of the Country, and what we rejoyced at moſt, we were ſhewn a little Hill, juſt behind which, we were told, lay *Tadmor.* This Mountain was covered on both ſides with great plenty of Turpentine-Trees, which was an Object very pleaſing, having ſeen very few greens in our whole Journey: This Tree grows very thick and ſhady, and ſeveral of them we ſaw loaded with a vaſt abundance of a ſmall round Nut, the chief uſe whereof is to make Oil, though ſome eat them, and account them as great a Regalio as Piſtaches; there outward Husk is green, and more oily than that of Piſtaches, and within a very thin ſhell is contained a Kernel both in colour and reliſh very much reſembling them; but thoſe that eat them, ſeldom take the pains to ſearch for the Kernels, but eat Husk and Shell all together, which have no ungrateful taſte: From this Hill we had a tedious deſcent, and coming at the foot into a narrow gut, winding this way and that between the Mountains, our Paſſage ſeemed very long, hot and tireſome; our want of Water however obliged us to proceed, whereof we now began to be in great neceſſity, eſpecially for our Horſes and Mules, who had none the night before, nor none all that day; with this we had hopes of being ſupplied two different ways; having had a

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ſhower of Rain the night before, we hoped to have found Water ſtanding in the hollows of the Rocks; but either the Rain had not reach'd ſo far, or not in ſuch plenty as to fill thoſe naturally hewed Ciſterns: our other expectation was from the Wells that were in the Road; but theſe our Guide advancing before and examining, met us with the unwelcom news, that they were all dried up, and the beſt advice he could give us, was to pitch where we were, and content our ſelves with the remains of what we had brought two days in our Veſſels, till our Horſes and Mules might be ſent to a Fountain two hours out of our way, and being watered there themſelves, bring a freſh ſupply for us: This way, with ſome difficulty, we aſſented to, as more eligible, than weary as we were, to wander ſo far out of the Road, to have the ſame Ground to ſtage over again the next morning: we reſolved therefore to ſend our Guide, with one or two of our Servants, in ſearch of the Water, and afterwards others with our Horſes, while in the mean time we pitcht our Tents, it being then about two a clock in the Afternoon: As ſoon as they were gone, a ſmall drizling Rain, which we had about half an hour, encreaſed to a very plentiful ſhower, which put us upon producing all the Veſſels we had to catch it as it fell from the Heavens, or ran down the skirts of our Tents, our Horſes at the ſame time greedily drinking it from the ground; but we might have ſpared our pains, for in leſs than half an hour's time, our Camp was in a manner a float, and we were ſurrounded with Water not only ſufficient for us, but for an Army of 20000 Men; thoſe hollow Gutts which we paſſed over without the leaſt appearance of moiſture, were, by the Cataracts which deſcended from the Mountains, become Rivers; and our Guide, with thoſe Servants we had ſent out, that before rode over it dry, it being ſwoln to ſuch a torrent, were put to ſome difficulty to re-paſs it; ſo

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plentifully was God pleaſed to provide for us in our greateſt ſtreight ; and which encreaſes both the Wonder and Mercy, the next morning, all this great quantity of Water was paſt away, ſo that in about two hour's riding we could hardly perceive that there had been any Rain at all. This memorable Place is known by the name of *Al-Wiſhal.*

October the 4th. From *Al-Wiſhal* we proceeded for *Tadmor*, ſome of the Ruines of which we perſwaded our ſelves we could ſee the day before ; perhaps it might be the Caſtle, which is more than half an hour's diſtance from the City ; our way lay Southward, but the Gut in which we travelled would not permit us to keep a direct courſe : however, in about an hour's walk, we paſt by *Antor* Mountains (our Guide call'd them *Toul Antor*) through a gutt or rent, both ſides of which ſo directly anſwered one to the other, they would tempt a Man to believe they were ſeparated by Art, for an entrance into the Country ; but it muſt have been a work of prodigious Labour and Charges to have cut through ſuch vaſt Mountains : and if any one was ſo hardy as to attempt it, he certainly grew weary of his Undertaking ; for the Ground is levelled but a very little way, and almoſt as ſoon as we were well got within the open ſpace, we were obliged to aſcend another Hill, and ſo our Road continued over Hills and Valleys interchangeably all the way. On the left-hand, ſome diſtance from the Road, we ſaw a *Sheck*'s Houſe, on the top of a high Hill, which made a better Show than uſually thoſe Buildings do ; but being aſſured by our Guide it was a modern Structure, and eager too to come to the principal Place we aimed at, we would not prolong our Stage ſo much as to turn out of the Road, to ſee more of it : ſo preſſing ſtill forwards, we had hardly proceeded four hours, when we came to the brow of a rocky Mountain, ſeparated from that whereon ſtands the Caſtle of *Tadmor*, but by a narrow

Valley: in which Hill, by the Way, appeared ſome Quarries of fine Stone, which probably might afford Materials to the curious Buildings in the City. Our Guide here (according to his accuſtomed Diligence) advanced ſome few paces before us, and having eſpied three or four Country Fellows driving Aſſes towards us, he cauſed us to make halt, to give them an opportunity to come nearer to us, reſolving to ſpeak with them, to know whether the coaſt was clear, or if any of the Mountain *Arabs* were then at *Tadmor*, or not. After a little ſpace, with our Arms in our Hands, we marched, in as good order as the way would permit, down a rocky and ſteep Precipice, into the Valley; and our Guide making greater ſpeed than we could, gallop'd after the poor affrighted Country Fellows; who ſeeing ſuch a Company unexpectedly deſcend the Hill, left their Aſſes, and fled towards the City with all poſſible ſpeed: But they were ſoon overtaken, and brought back again to us; to whom they related the good news, that there was no Force at all in *Tadmor*, and that we might proceed with courage, and ſee what we would there with all ſafety: Which News obtained them their liberty to go again to their Aſſes, and we continued in our Way.

Having tired our ſelves with roving from Ruine to Ruine, and romaging among old Stones, from which little Knowledge could be obtained; and more-eſpecially not thinking it ſafe to linger too long in a place, where, ſhould the Mountain *Arabs* (who were Enemies to *Aſſyne Abaſſe*, our Friend) have intelligence of us, they might either fall upon or endeavour to intercept us in our return; (for which reaſon alſo we had all along concealed our intended Courſe, under a pretence of proceeding forward to *Damaſcus*,) On *Thurſday*, *Octob.* 8. about half an hour after four in the Morning, we departed from *Tadmor*, being very well ſatisfied with what

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we had ſeen, and glad to have eſcaped ſo dreaded a Place, without any trouble or pretences upon us; but elſe with ſome regret, for having left a great many things behind, which deſerved a more particular and curious Inſpection. Our Road lay almoſt due Eaſt, or a little enclining to the North; and on the left-hand, a ridge of Hills ſtretched along for a great ſpace, ſometimes about half an hour diſtant from the Road, and ſometimes opening wider: Theſe Hills, we were told, were ſtored with rich Veins of divers Minerals, and afforded all that vaſt quantity of Marble, the Remains whereof we had ſeen at *Tadmor*; and it was from a Fountain call'd *Abulfarras*, at the foot of one of them, they fetcht out Water, which we drank there; the Inhabitants contenting themſelves with that which runs from the Hot Springs. To the right-hand lay a vaſt barren Plain, perfectly bare, and hardly any thing green to be ſeen therein, except it were a few Gourds, which our Servants found on the ſide of a little riſing-Ground, where there was no ſhew of any thing moiſt to feed them. Our Way being plain, we had the ſight of *Tadmor*, eſpecially the Caſtle, for above half our Stage, till we came to an old *Caphar* Houſe. We made indeed a very ſhort Day's Journey in the whole, finding a Fountain of excellent Water in about five hours and a half's riding; which, as it was a moſt welcom Refreſhment to us in ſuch a thirſty Deſart, ſo it was the only good Water we met with till we came to *Euphrates*, which was not till the third day from this place. At this Fountain we pitcht, near to which is a Village, but almoſt wholly ruined and deſerted. 'Twas ſome time before any body would be ſeen, for they were afraid of us; at length, three Men came out to our Tents, Spectacles of a miſerable poverty, occaſion'd by their being frequently pillaged by the Mountain *Arabs*, and a great Duty they pay to *Aſſyne Abaſſe* their King, for his Protection: Three hun-

dred Dollars they pay him annually, when one would think the whole Village was not able to make up the Summ of One hundred; yet being the remoteſt Place that was under his Juriſdiction, they often ſuffer by the Inroads of the other. The Name of the Place is *Tarecca*, a Name it received (as we were inform'd) from a Victory obtained there by the *Turks* over the *Mamalukes*.

October the 9th. From *Tarecca* we mounted early, and travelling N. E. or near that Point, in ſeven hour's time arrived at *Soukney*. The Road we found much like what we had the day before, lying over a barren Plain; only we had Hills on both ſides, and ſometimes cloſing within half an hour's riding one of the other. The Village has its Name from the Hot Waters, (for ſo the word imports,) which are of the ſame Nature with thoſe of *Tadmor*; herein they Bathe frequently, the ſame little dirty Hole ſerving both for Men and Women; only they have ſo much Modeſty remaining, that they have different hours for one and the other. To ſay the truth, 'twas the only mark of Modeſty I could obſerve among them; in other reſpects they ſeemed a Confident, or rather Impudent Generation of People. Before we could pitch our Tents, they flockt about us in multitudes, Men, Women, and Children; and of the laſt, many of them as naked as ever they came into the World, not ſo much as a Rag about them to cover them; and ſo numerous they appeared, that if we had reaſon to think *Tarecca* wanted Inhabitants, we had no leſs, to conclude *Soukney* over-ſtockt. At this Place uſually reſides an Officer of *Aſſyne*'s, who is their Sub-Baſha, or Governor: He whom we found there, was call'd *Dor*, of a good Family among the *Arabs*, to whom we made a Preſent; and he civilly return'd it in Barley for our Horſes. Afterward he came under our Tents, and invited us to an Entertainment; which, conſidering the Circumſtances

cumſtances of the Place, was very ſplendid, though it was nothing but *Pilaw* at laſt, a little diverſify'd by the dreſſing; and, to ſpeak truly, I judge we could not have leſs than a Buſhel of Rice ſet before us. His Palace, indeed was not very ſtately, there being few Cottages in *England* but might vye with it. To the Room wherein we were entertained, which, doubtleſs, was the beſt, if not the only one he had, we were forced to clamber, rather than aſcend, by broken Steps made of Stone and Dirt. When we were got in, and commodiouſly ſeated after the Turkiſh mode, it ſeemed large enough for about a dozen or fourteen People: At the upper end was a little ſpace ſeparated from the reſt by a ridge made up of Earth, within which, I ſuppoſe, he ſlept. The Walls were mean; but the Roof much worſe, having no other Covering but Faggots; ſo that certainly it could not be Proof againſt a Shower of Rain which fell that night, and forced us out of our Tents, into an old ruinous *Cane*, for ſhelter: However, it ſerved well enough for our Afternoon's Collation; and we had come away with a good Opinion of the Gentleman's Civility, had he not afterwards endeavoured to make a Pretence upon us, and ſo would have forced us to pay dear for our Rice: He pretended to a cuſtomary Duty of a Chequeen a Head of all *Franks* that paſt that Road; though probably neither he, nor his Grandfather before him, had ever ſeen a *Frank* there before. But when he underſtood by our Guide, that we were not ſo eaſily to be impoſed upon; and withal, that we were *Aſſyne*'s Friends, and in our way to his Tents; and eſpecially our Treaſurer a Perſon he very much eſteemed, who therefore would be ſure to acquaint him with any Exaction or Injury offer'd us, his Mouth was quickly ſtopt, and he grew ſo ſenſible of his Error, that he ſent to excuſe it, and preſented our Treaſurer with a Fan of Black Oſtrich Feathers; and not only ſo, but in the morning came himſelf, and begging

Pardon,

Pardon, desiring nothing might be said of what had past, and so conducted us about an hour on our way. This Village pays to *Assyne* Fifteen hundred Dollars *per Annum.*

October the 10th. Continuing our Voyage still to the N. E. or something more Easterly, we found it another pleasant and easie Stage to another Village call'd *Tiebe*, so called (as they say) from the Goodness of the Water, the word signifying *good:* but we found them not so over-excellent; they had the taste, and were doubtless tinctured with the same Mineral, with those of *Soukney* and *Tadmor*, though not so strong. But the Village it self made a better Shew than usual; and the People appear'd of something better fashion, and more civiliz'd, than those we had left. It's pleasantly situated, and makes a good appearance as one comes up to it; the Prospect being helped by a well built Steeple, to which is now adjoyned their Mosque: but I am apt to believe it the Remains of a Christian Church, being built with more Art and Beauty than you shall easily find in Turkish Fabricks: And there are also several Ruines about it, which speak it to have been a more famous Place than now it is. Into the Mosque we were permitted to enter, without any Disturbance. This Village lies in one of the Roads from *Aleppo* to *Bagdatt*, and pays to *Assyne* an Annual Tribute of One thousand Dollars. From hence we mounted again in the Afternoon, and proceeded about two hours and an half farther, to shorten our next day's Stage. Having travelled this day, in all, about seven or eight hours, the Place we pitcht at was a Fountain, and known by the Name of *Alcome*; but neither Town nor House by it: neither was the Water fit to be drank, being of the same nature with that of *Soukney*, and almost as warm.

October the 11th. From *Alcome* we rose about an hour and an half after Midnight, our Guide groping out the

way, by the help of the Stars, which now bended more to the North than formerly. As ſoon as it was light enough to look about us, we found our ſelves in a wild open Deſart, the Ground, in ſome places, covered with a ſort of Heath, and in others qũite bare. Nor had we travelled long after the Sun was up, before, by the help of a riſing-Ground, we diſcovered *Arſoffa*, the Place whither we were tending, which gave us hopes we ſhould quickly be there: but having a dry tireſom Plain to traverſe, and the hot Sun cauſing our Mules a little to ſlacken their pace, 'twas after ten a clock before we reach'd it: And which was more vexatious ſtill, finding no Water any where near, we were neceſſitated to proceed forward for the River *Euphrates*, which we found four hours diſtant from hence. *Arſoffa*, or (as the *Arabs* call it) *Arſoffa Emir*, ſeems to be the Remains of a Monaſtery, having no Town nor Village near it, and being one continued Pile of Building of an oblong figure, ſtretching long-ways Eaſt and Weſt, and encloſing a very capacious Area: At a diſtance it makes a glittering ſhew, being built of *Gypſine Stone*, or Rock-Iſing-glaſs, reſembling Alabaſter, but not ſo hard; ſeveral Quarries of which we paſt by in our way to it. When the Sun ſhines upon it, it reflects the Beams ſo ſtrong, that they dazle the Eyes of the Spectators. Art or Accuracy in the Workmanſhip we found none; and but very little Carved Work, and that mean enough; nay, the very Cement they made uſe of, is but little better than Dirt: ſo that it's no great wonder to ſee it in Ruines, though it has not the appearance of any great Antiquity. Round about were the little Appartments or Chambers for the Monks, built Arch-wiſe, only one Story above ground; but underneath are ſeveral Cells or Vaults, larger than the Chambers, which perhaps might ſerve for their Schools, or Working-houſes. In the midſt of the Area ſtand the Ruines of ſeveral Buildings, ſome of which ſeem

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to have been Ciſterns for Water, and it may be Bathing-places: but the moſt remarkable was one, which probably was the Abbot's or Biſhop's Houſe, there having been ſomething more pains beſtowed upon it, than the reſt: and another, which was the Relicks of their Church. This was formerly no unhandſom Structure, being built in the form of our Churches, and diſtinguiſht into three Iſles, of which the middle one is ſupported by eighteen turned Marble Pillars, with Capitals upon them, not of Marble, but of a ſort of Clay, and Caſt into the ſhape they are in, but of a colour exactly reſembling the Pillar it ſelf. That which perſuades to believe them Caſt, is a Greek Inſcription to be ſeen on all of them; the Letters whereof are not made by inciſion in the Stone, but ſeem to be ſtamped, ſtanding out higher than the diſtance between them; and on one of them, by miſtake, they are ſo placed, as to be read after the Oriental manner, from the right-hand to the left. The words are theſe, with the Crucifix before, as follows:

✠ ΕΠΙ ΕΕΡΓΙ℘ ΕΠΙΕΚ°. Τ℘ ΕΥΝΤΕΝ̃ ΜΑΡ℘ΝΙ℘ Τ℘ Χ℘ΡΕΙΠΙΕΚ°.

From hence our Guide led us to the River, by the aſſiſtance of two little Hills, which are known by the Name of *Aff Dien*, our way lying North, and a little bending to the Eaſt. The ſight of the River was a very pleaſing Proſpect; and to our great comfort, we found the Water very clear, happening to be there before the Rains, and after the Snow-Waters (which ſwell and diſturb it in the Summer-time) were all paſt: and our Happineſs ſeemed the greater, having had ſo tedious and thirſty a Journey of at leaſt fourteen hours, and neither our Selves nor our Horſes toucht a drop of Water all day. We pitcht upon a Reach of the River, where it was not very broad, not being above half a Musket-ſhot over.

October

October the 12th. This Morning, about Sun-riſe, we proceeded on our Voyage, keeping along the Banks of the River, which, for the moſt part, led us Weſt and North-Weſt: And here we had pleaſant travelling, having the River on the right-hand, and Hills of Marble or other fine Stone, on the left; and delightful Groves of Tamarisk, Mulberry, and other Trees to paſs through. Here every thing about us look freſh and verdant, and we met frequently Men and Women paſſing on their Occaſions, a thing to which (in our former Stages) we had not been accuſtomed. We had alſo a pleaſing Proſpect of the oppoſite Shore, and could ſee a great way into *Meſopotamia*, but could meet with no Convenience to croſs the River, which we were very deſirous to have done. There are no Places of Note remaining upon the River either on one ſide or the other, only on the farther ſide we ſaw an old Caſtle call'd *Giabar*, which made a good Shew, being ſituated on the top of a Hill, and both for that and the way of Building, very much reſembling that of *Aleppo*, only that is the larger, and in the midſt of a City; this leſs, and has neither Town nor Houſes about it. On our ſide we paſt by a *Sheck*'s Houſe call'd *Abul-Rarra*, and the Ruines of a Town a little farther, where there was a ſquare Tower built of very ordinary Brick, but pretty entire. After we had left theſe Ruines, we reſted to bait, under the ſhadow of a Rock, wherein were many Appartments and Conveniences cut to lodge in, which I ſuppoſe are made uſe of in the Winter by the People, who, during the Summer, pitch among the Trees by the River-ſide. In the Afternoon we continued our Journey as before, keeping always at a little diſtance from the River, till a little before Sun-ſet; when we came to a very convenient Place upon the Banks, where we took up our lodging for that night, having travell'd between ſeven or eight hours the whole day.

October the 13th. This day we had the ſame Satisfaction as the day before, proceeding as near the River as the Road would permit; and having made a Stage of about ſix hours, we reſted under the ſhade of the Tamarisk Trees by the River-ſide, hoping to have found conveniency to have croſt it: but we could not. In our way we ſaw nothing obſervable but the Ruines of a City call'd *Baulus*, where the Turks had formerly a *Sangiack*; but now there is never an Inhabitant in the Place, nor Houſe ſtanding, but the Ruines of Houſes, and an Octagonal Tower of a conſiderable height, *viz.* One hundred and ſeven Steps, and beautified on the out-ſide with Floriſhes and an Arabick Inſcription round about: It's a handſom Structure, and probably the Work of the *Mamalukes*, ſince whoſe time little has been done to adorn, but abundance to deſtroy and waſte this Countrey. After Dinner, we mounted ſooner than ordinary; becauſe hoping to reach the Tents of *Aſſyne*, we were unwilling it ſhould be late when we arrived: yet we made it near Sun-ſet before we got to *Fay*, a Fountain by which he lay. We had travell'd ſtill on the ſame Point N. W. with the proſpect of the River the greater part of the way; the neareſt Reach thereof not being above an hour's riding from the Fountain. On the Road we met with ſeveral *Bandera's* of the *Emir's* Soldier's, who knowing our Guide, and underſtanding we were going to him, gave us a very courteous *Salam*, who elſe, perhaps, might have treated us with another ſort of Civility. The King's Tents ſpread over a large Plain, and took up ſo vaſt a ſpace, that though we had the advantage of a riſing-Ground, we could not ſee the uttermoſt extent of them. His own particular Tent was pretty near the middle of the reſt, which were pitcht about it, not in a circular manner, but ſtretching out in length as the Plain open'd, or for the better conveniency of a current of Water which from the Fountain ran through

through the midſt of them. 'Twas not at all diſtinguiſhable from the reſt, but by its Bigneſs, and a little more Company about it, being all made of a ſort of Hair-Cloth, which ſeemed hardly a defence againſt Rain or Sun: But certainly they muſt find otherwiſe, elſe their Neceſſity (they ſpending their lives in ſuch moveable Habitations) would have taught them to have contrived ſomething better. It cannot well be doubted but they are deſcended from the old *Arabs Scenitæ*, they living juſt after the ſame manner, having no ſettled Abode, but remove from Fountain to Fountain, as they find Graſs for their Sheep and Camels, and Water for them and themſelves. They love to derive themſelves from *Iſmael* the Son of *Abraham*; and it may be they are deſcended from him, but I believe they would be hard put to't to prove their Pedigree.

As ſoon as we alighted, we were attended by the Officers of the *Emir*, and conducted to a very noble Tent built after the Turkiſh mode, and pitcht next to his own. Hither he ſent to bid us welcome, and to enquire how we had paſt in our Voyage; and preſently after, we had a Repaſt of ſeveral Diſhes of Meat ſet before us, to ſtay our Appetites till a more plentiful Supper could be got ready. But before Supper, the King himſelf made us a Viſit in Perſon, bidding us welcome to *Fay*, and asking what we had ſeen in our Travels that pleas'd us? how we liked *Tadmor*? and whether we had found a Treaſure there? For this Notion ſticks in the Heads of theſe People, That the *Franks* go to ſee old Ruines, only becauſe they there meet with Inſcriptions which direct them to ſome hid Treaſures. And therefore it's no unuſual thing with them, when they find a Stone with an Inſcription on one ſide, to turn that down to the ground, that it might not be ſeen or read of any. But we aſſured him we went with no ſuch Expectations, but only out of a deſire to ſee the Place;

neither had we brought any thing away with us, but a piece of Porphyry Stone, which, upon his requeſt, we ſhew'd him. We let him ſee too, a kind of rude Draught which we had taken of the Place; which he ſeemed to like. He made his Viſit the ſhorter, that he might not incommode us after our Journey; but deſir'd us we would live after our own Pleaſure and to our Satisfaction, and command freely whatever the Camp would afford; ordering ſome of his People conſtantly to attend upon us. When there was mention made of our deſign to be gone the next morning, he anſwer'd, It muſt not be; himſelf was invited, the next day, to a great Entertainment, by one of his *Grandees*, and we ſhould accompany him: but the day following, he would go out with us, and hunt part of our way towards *Aleppo*. When Supper was brought in, there was Victuals enough for three times our number: A large Diſh of *Pilaw* in the middle, and twelve or fifteen Diſhes of ſeveral ſorts of Meat about it, all dreſt after their manner, but exceeding good, and ſuch as one might have fed heartily upon, had he not ſpoil'd his Appetite before. After we had eat and drank what we pleas'd, we roſe up, and our Servants ſate down in our Places; it being the Cuſtom of the *Arabs*, and *Turks* too, from the Higheſt to the Meaneſt, all to eat at the ſame Table: The beſt ſort ſit down firſt, and ſo in order till all are ſatisfy'd, and then what remains is carry'd away. We might, if we had pleas'd, have lodg'd under the ſame Tent where we eat; but having Tents of our own pitcht, ſome of our Company choſe rather to retire thither, to avoid being diſturbed by too many Viſitants.

October the 14th. The next morning, about ten a clock, we were told that the King was gone to the Entertainment, and expected we ſhould follow him; and that two young Camels were kill'd, to furniſh this ſumptuous Feaſt; which is the higheſt piece of Magnificence

ficence and Greatneſs to which theſe People, whoſe greateſt Riches conſiſt in Camels, can arrive. The Tent was about a Furlong from ours; ſo mounting our Horſes, we rode to it, and found it ſurrounded with a numerous train of Gueſts, Three hundred at leaſt, of different ſort and quality: It was very large of it ſelf, and to be ſtill more capacious, 'twas left open toward the Weſt. The King was ſeated at the North-end, about the midſt of the Tent, upon a Place raiſed with Cuſhions and Quilts, and Carpets before him: neither did he ſit croſs-legg'd, as all the reſt of the Company were obliged to do, but in a leaning poſture. They ſeemed to obſerve an exact Order in their Places; and when any Perſon of Note enter'd, thoſe that were near his Place, roſe up and ſtood till he had ſeated himſelf. But the far greateſt part could not come within the compaſs of the Ring, but ſtood behind the Backs of the reſt, leaving a ſpacious *Area* vacant in the middle. When we entred, they made room for us on the King's left-hand, which here is eſteem'd the more Honourable; where we ſate down in the ſame poſture with thoſe about us, croſs-legg'd, upon a thin Carpet. Before mid-day, a Carpet being ſpread in the middle of the Tent, our Dinner was brought in, being ſerved up in large wooden Bowls between two Men; and truly, to my apprehenſion, Load enough for them. Of theſe great Platters there were about fifty or ſixty in number, perhaps more, with a great many little ones, I mean, ſuch as one Man was able to bring in, ſtrewed here and there among them, and placed for a Border or Garniſh round about the Table. In the middle of all was one of a larger ſize than all the reſt, in which were the Camel's Bones, and a thin Broth in which they were boiled: The other greater ones ſeemed all filled with one and the ſame ſort of Proviſion, a kind of Plumb-broth, made of Rice, and the fleſhy part of the Camel, with Currants and Spices, being of ſomething

a darker

a darker Colour than what is made in our Countrey. The leſſer were, for the moſt part, charged with Rice dreſs'd after ſeveral modes, ſome of them having *Leben*, (a thick ſour Milk) poured upon them. *Leben* is a thing in mighty eſteem in theſe hot Countries, being very uſeful to quench Thirſt: And truly we had need of it here; for I did not ſee a drop of any ſort of Liquor, excepting a Diſh of Coffee before Dinner, drank at this ſplendid Feaſt. Knives, Forks, Spoons, Trenchers, *&c.* are ſilly impertinent things in the eſteem of the *Arabs*: however, we being known to make uſe of ſuch things, had large Wooden Spoons laid before us. When the Table was thus plentifully furniſht, the King ariſing from his Seat, went and ſate down to that Diſh that was directly before him; and ſo did the reſt, as many as it would contain, which could not be much ſhort of a hundred; and ſo without further Ceremony, they fell to, thruſting their Hands into the Diſhes, and eating by handfuls: Neither was there any occaſion of Carving; only becauſe thoſe Diſhes in the middle were too remote to be reach'd, there was an Officer on purpoſe, who ſtepping in among them, and ſtanding in the ſpaces deſignedly left for that end, with a long Ladle in both his Hands, helpt any one according to their deſire. When the King had eaten what he thought fit, he roſe up and waſht, and retir'd back to his former Seat; and we alſo did the like; others being ready to fill our Places. Nor did we continue much longer under the Tent in that numerous Croud; for *Aſſyne* perceiving us a little uneaſie, and ſuppoſing we had now ſufficiently ſatisfy'd our Curioſity, though perhaps not our Appetites, told us we might take our liberty, and if we thought fit, retire to our Tents. This Favour we gladly accepted, and without Ceremony returned, ſeveral of his Attendants waiting upon us back. Here we had another Dinner ſet before us; and having ſome of our own Wine and Water

to

to drink with it, it went down better with us than the famous Camel-Feaſt. In the evening, the King mounted to ſee the flight of a new Hawk, and ſtay'd abroad very late, his Hawk flying away: but ſhe was afterwards taken up by his Falconer; otherwiſe he had not been in a good humour all that night, being a Man that delights very much in Sport. After his return from Hawking, we went to wait upon him at his own Tent, to return him Thanks for his moſt Courteous and Royal Reception of us, and to deſire leave to depart the next morning. Here we found him ſurrounded with the chiefeſt of his People; and being placed again on his Left-hand, he entertain'd us with a great deal of pleaſant Diſcourſe; and ask'd ſuch Queſtions, as ſhew'd him to be a Man of extraordinary Capacity and Judgment. As for Learning, they have no ſuch thing among them, and therefore it's not to be expected that he ſhould be a Scholar: but were he not a Perſon of more than common Prudence and Underſtanding, he could never have managed that wild and unruly People as he has done, ever ſince his Advancement to the Throne; which muſt therefore have been the more difficult, becauſe as he came to it by the Depoſition of his Father (though not immediately) who now lives with him as a private Man, ſo has he never wanted Competitors. To his Father he pays a great deal of outward Reſpect, but is forced to keep a very watchful Eye over him. After about an hour's Diſcourſe, we were diſmiſs'd.

October the 15th. In the morning, *Aſſyne* not being at leiſure to go a Hunting, we proceeded on our Voyage homewards, with a great deal of alacrity; and finding nothing remarkable in our Road, in about three hours and an half arrived at *Seray*. And hence, after a ſhort Repaſt, we continued our Journey to *Sherby* Fountain, which took us up about the like ſpace of time. Here we accounted our ſelves as good as at Home, being at a

Place

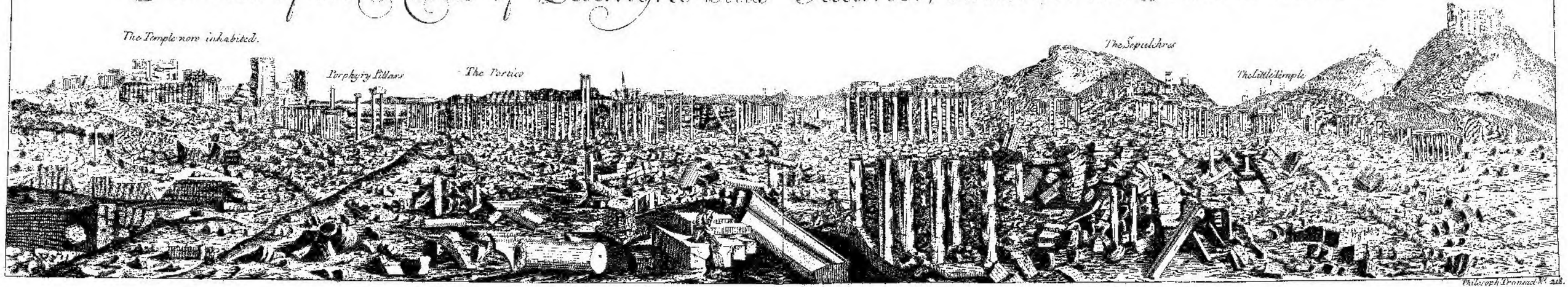
Place with which we were well acquainted, and to which ſeveral times in the year ſome or other of our Nation uſually reſort; either for Gazel or Hog-hunting, according to their Seaſon; nor had we hence above ſeven or eight hours to *Aleppo*.

October the 16th. Getting up pretty early in the morning, we reſolved to Hunt the greateſt part of our way home, as we did; and dining at the famous *Round-Hill*, whereon has been ſpent by the *Engliſh* more Money than would purchaſe a noble Eſtate round about it, in the afternoon we arrived ſafe at *Aleppo*.

III. *Some Account of the Ancient State of the City of* Palmyra, *with ſhort Remarks upon the Inſcriptions found there. By* E. Halley.

THE City of *Tadmor*, whoſe Remains in Ruines do with ſo much evidence demonſtrate the once happy Condition thereof, ſeems very well to be proved to be the ſame City which *Solomon* the Great King of *Iſrael* is ſaid to have founded under that Name in the *Deſart*, both in 1 *King*. 9. 18. and 2 *Chron*. 8. 16. in the Tranſlation of which, the *Vulgar Latin Verſion*, ſaid to be that of St. *Jerom*, has it, *Condidit Palmyram in Deſerto*. And *Joſephus* (in *lib*. 8. *Antiq. Jud*. wherein he treats of *Solomon* and his Acts) tells us, that he built a City in the Deſart, and called it *Thadamora*; and the *Syrians* at this day (ſays he) call it by the ſame Name: but the *Greeks* name it *Palmyra*. The Name is therefore Greek, and conſequently has no relation to the Latin *Palma*, and ſeems rather derived from Παλμυδς or Πάλμυς,

A View of the Ruines of Palmyra alias Tadmor, taken on the Southern Side.



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